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FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG

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PATENT
450100-02915

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 10 and 11, which are independent, are hereby amended. Claims 14 and 15 are hereby added. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, and specifically at pages 28-32. No new matter has been introduced. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,918,222 to Fukui et al.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

“...wherein each of a plurality of items included in said second information is assigned at least two values, one indicating a knowledge level of said user and one indicating a knowledge level of said conversation processing apparatus, said values vary according to content of said conversation...”
(emphasis added).

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As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 5,918,222 to Fukui et al. (hereinafter, merely "Fukui") relates to information disclosing apparatus that interactively discloses information as an agent of each individual owner who owns information. The apparatus further is capable of reflecting an intention of an information demander in management of a response history between the information disclosing apparatus and the information demander as a user. Additionally the apparatus is capable of dynamically analyzing the statuses of information demander and information provider who are users and selecting an appropriate countermeasure to both the information provider and the information demander.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Fukui that would disclose or suggest that above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Fukui does not disclose that each of a plurality of items included in said second information is assigned at least two values, one indicating a knowledge level of said user and one indicating a knowledge level of said conversation processing apparatus, said values vary according to content of said conversation, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be patentable.

Independent claims 10 and 11 are corresponding method and recording medium claims, respectively, and are believed patentable for similar reasons.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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